

In men like Bruce Crandall, we really see the best of America. He and his fellow soldiers were brave, brave folks. They were as noble and selfless as any who have ever worn our Nation's uniform. And on this day of pride, we remember their comrades who gave their lives and those who are still missing. We remember the terrible telegrams that arrived at Fort Benning, the families devastated, the children who traced their father's name on panel three-east of the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

Our sadness has not diminished with time. Yet we're also comforted by the knowledge that the suffering and grief could have been far worse. One of the reasons it was not is because the man we honor today. For the soldiers rescued, for the men who came home, for the children they had and the lives they made, America is in debt to Bruce Crandall. It's a debt our Nation can never really fully repay, but today we recognize it as best as we're able, and we bestow upon this good and gallant man the Medal of Honor.

Commander, please read the citation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. David Hicks, USA, Army Chief of Chaplains. Following the President's remarks, Lt. Comdr. Geoffrey Gagnier, Coast Guard Aide to the President, read the citation.

### **Proclamation 8107—Irish-American Heritage Month, 2007**

*February 26, 2007*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

The friendship between Ireland and the United States has deep roots, and Irish Americans have played an integral role in making our country a place of hope and opportunity. During Irish-American Heritage Month, we recognize the vital contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

Since our founding, Irish immigrants have come to America's shores in search of better lives. Today, millions of American citizens are of Irish descent, and they and their

forebearers have helped shape our way of life, strengthened our economy, and contributed to the arts, and protected our Nation. Irish Americans have shown their devotion to our country by serving in our Armed Forces. America is especially grateful to these brave men and women for the sacrifices that have helped preserve the ideals of our country and made the world a safer place.

During the month of March, we reflect on our Nation's past and how Irish Americans helped create the country we live in today. America is a melting pot of cultures, and Irish-American Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of Irish-American citizens and remind our people we are blessed to be a Nation of immigrants.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2007 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month by celebrating the contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:35 a.m., February 28, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 1.

### **Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Relating to Cuba and of the Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels**

*February 26, 2007*

On March 1, 1996, by Proclamation 6867, a national emergency was declared to address the disturbance or threatened disturbance of